

RE: Proceeding 05-235
From: Michael B. Snyder/AI4LK prev KI4INB prev WB2QIF prev WN2QIF
208 64th Street
Holmes Beach, FL 34217

My comments regarding proceeding 05-235 are as follows:

I received my 1st radio license in the mid 60s. As a novice I worked very hard to learn and become proficient in code. The requirement of 5WPM at first seemed insurmountable but with practice I was able to learn and become quite good. Soon I was getting faster and the 13 WPM required for General did not seem so hard. I passed the General Class within a year or so, having to have my father drive me into New York City as there were no VECs back then!

Using less than 100 watts with home made equipment and antennas I worked well over 100 countries and most states. QSL cards were building as fast as I could earn the money to buy stamps. I was very proud of my CW skills and found it as enjoyable as AM or SSB.

In 1971 I went into the service and trained for a MOS (military occupational specialty) of 05B20 and 05C20, radio and radio teletype operators. The code requirement for the MOS was somewhere in the 5-10 WPM range and what happened was that because of my amateur radio skills I was able to pass the morse code on Day 1 and the technical theory within a couple of weeks, learning some new areas about teletype.

The instructors at the schools did not realize that I was in the National Guard, and requested me to consider staying on and becoming an instructor there. I could not, but I agreed to be an aid while there, so I was given many extra privileges. I helped many other soldiers with the code and theory.

After coming out of training I found that I had to quickly grow up, and radio quickly became a memory. I neglected to renew my license and it expired.

Now, 40 years later one of my friends encouraged me to re-license. I studied and obtained my Technician license in March with code being recognized by me showing proof of having been a novice back in the 60s. I went on and got my General class, and 2 months later, this July my Extra class.

When I got back on the air this year after 40 years of being away from radio, the code was a quick ramp-up back into the hobby. I have found new interest in VHF which I had not seen back in the 60s. But on 20 meters and 40 meters and 80 meters, having 100 watts and a vertical just does not cut it on SSB, not with the big tower boys that run 1000 watts and 5 element beams up 90 feet. CW however has been amazing. This past month with 50 watts and my Gap Titan vertical I have worked Israel, Romania, Ukraine, Balearic Islands, UK, Spain, Argentina, and so on.

My point after you have read the narrative up to this point is, radio needs CW. It is a way to make contacts that you never would on voice. It is a way to develop coordination skills, and listening skills. It is a way to meet people that in some cases would not want to be speaking. It is a way for certain handicappers to get involved in the hobby. It is a way that in certain emergencies more hams could help if necessary.

Finally, it is a long standing tradition to amateur radio. If nothing else I would say that if it gets more hams into the hobby then lets find a way to keep code in the licensing to ensure that ham operators get exposure to code to reach the pinnacle, extra class, and lets still limit some of the HF until 5WPM is achieved.

Let's not wholesale remove code from licensing.

AI4LK votes to maintain code in the licensing system.

Thank you,

Michael B. Snyder/AI4LK